

natural incubation had proceeded to a large extent, and how he successfully reared a number of young ducklings which he was afterwards able to safely land in Connecticut.

Mr. Stuart Baker contributes two articles on the habits of the Indian Pigmy Falcon (*Microhierax melanoleucus*) and the Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*), both of which he kept in semicaptivity in Assam.

There are many other articles dealing with various aspects of aviculture and including some of great practical use to its votaries, and we may conclude by noticing a most useful glossary of the various English names applied to the many species of Parrots, contributed by Dr. E. Hopkinson.

List of other Ornithological Publications received.

- MURPHY, R. C. Cruising in the South Atlantic. (Brooklyn Mus. Quarterly. Vol. i. No. 2, July 1914.)
 Austral Avian Record. (Vol. ii. Nos. 5, 6. London, 1914.)
 Avicultural Magazine. (3rd Series, Vol. vi. Nos. 1, 2. London, 1914.)
 Bird Lore. (Vol. xvi. Nos. 5, 6. Harrisburg, 1914.)
 Bird Notes. (New Series, Vol. v. Nos. 9-12, Ashbourne, 1914.)
 British Birds. (Vol. viii. Nos. 5-7. London, 1914.)
 Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de Genève. (Tome ii. Fasc. 1-3, 1914.)
 Californian Fish and Game. (Vol. i. No. 1. San Francisco, 1914.)
 Canada, Geol. Survey. Dept. of Mines. (Museum Bulletin No. 2. Ottawa, 1914.)
 Condor. (Vol. xvi. No. 4. Hollywood, Cal. 1914.)
 Emu. (Vol. xiv. pt. 2. Melbourne, 1914.)
 Irish Naturalist. (Vol. xxiii. Nos. 10-12. Dublin, 1914.)
 Scottish Naturalist. (Nos. 34-36. Edinburgh, 1914.)
 South Australian Ornithologist. (Vol. i. pt. 4. Adelaide, 1914.)
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IX.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

THE following letters have been received :—

SIR,—In the notice ('Ibis,' July 1914, p. 516) of Dr. J. C. Phillips's paper "Two new African Birds," Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xxvi. 1913, pp. 167-8, it is mentioned that "two supposed new forms are described—*Caprimulgus*

eleanoræ from Fazogli, and *Passer domesticus chephreni* from Giza, near Cairo.’

As regards *Caprimulgus eleanoræ*, I have just received from Dr. Phillips the coloured plate of the bird which appeared in ‘The Ank,’ vol. xxxi. pl. xiii., April 1914, on which Dr. Phillips has written “The plate is too light and too brown, the bird is blacker.”

I do not know with what material Dr. Phillips compared his bird before describing it, but had he availed himself of the opportunity of examining my collection while in Khartoum he would have found the same bird, from the same locality, and could have ascertained “the unknown characters” of the male, which has large subterminal white spots on the two outer rectrices. *Caprimulgus eleanoræ* does not appear to me to differ in any detail of plumage or measurements from *C. trimaculatus* (Swains.) (= *C. lentiginosus* Smith = *C. tristigma* Rüpp.), with which I unhesitatingly identify it, after having compared Fazogli birds with skins at the British Museum and at Tring.

Dr. Phillips’s statement that the bird is “most nearly like *C. monticola* of India” leaves me in doubt as to whether he compared it with a series of *C. trimaculatus* at all.

While fully recognizing the good work of American ornithologists, I think it is a matter for regret that many “new” forms of African birds have lately been described by them, based on one or two specimens only, and without comparison with the material in the museums of Europe. The result is that some recent descriptions are more of an addition to synonymy than to scientific knowledge.

Passer domesticus chephreni appears to be identical with *Passer domesticus niloticus* Nicoll & Bonhote, with which, and not with *P. d. indicus* Hart., Nicoll and Bonhote now unite the Giza Sparrow.

I am, Sir,

Yours &c.,

A. L. BUTLER.

Khartoum,
October 7, 1914.

The Final Extinction of the Passenger Pigeon.—From the October number of 'The Auk' we learn that the last living example of *Ectopistes migratorius* died on September 1 of last year in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens. It was a female and had been in captivity for twenty-nine years. The Passenger Pigeon nested in large communities, and these were so raided by trappers that there can be little doubt that the bird has been exterminated by the direct agency of man.

Mr. Frank M. Chapman ('Birds of Eastern North America,' 1912, p. 282) gives the following account of the history of this bird:—"Wilson, writing about 1808, estimated that a flock of Wild Pigeons observed by him near Frankfurt, Kentucky, contained at least 2,230,272,000 individuals. . . . An article by William Brewster on "The Present Status of the Wild Pigeon as a bird of the United States with some notes on their habits" (Auk, vi. 1889, p. 285), gives much information concerning the recent history of the bird in Michigan, one of its last strongholds. According to an informant of Mr. Brewster's the last nesting in Michigan of any importance was in 1881. It was of only moderate size—perhaps eight miles long. The largest known Michigan nesting occurred in 1876 or 1877. It was twenty-eight miles long and averaged three or four miles wide.

"The Passenger Pigeon is now so nearly extinct that although it has been reported as 'seen' on various occasions, there appears to be no unquestionable record of its actual capture since 1898. Singularly enough, two specimens were taken on September 14 of that year, an immature bird at Detroit, Mich. (Fleming, Auk, 1903, p. 66) and an adult male at Canandaigua, N.Y. (Eaton, 'Birds of New York')."

'Zoological Record' for 1913.—The portion of the 'Zoological Record' for 1913 containing the "Aves" was issued last month and should be in the hands of every working ornithologist. It can be obtained apart from the rest of the volume for 6s. from the publishers, Messrs. Harrison & Sons, of 45 St. Martin's Lane.

The present issue contains a list of 1576 titles dealing with various aspects of ornithology, as compared with 1665 for the year before; of these 370 are British, 368 come from the United States, 309 from Germany, and 130 from France. The other countries which run into double figures are Russia 82, Italy and Australia 52 each, Austria 46, India 32, Holland 27, Finland 25, and the South African Union 16.

It is to be hoped that the war will not prevent the issue of the volume for 1914, though it will doubtless be a matter of great difficulty to complete it. Not only has the war caused the cessation of the issue of a great many periodicals, but it will be impossible for the Central Bureau to receive the foreign titles from many of the contributing countries, even if the organizations and bureaus in these countries still continue their work. We understand, however, that an effort will be made to issue the volume for the present year and to make it as complete as possible, and in the meantime all ornithologists can assist in making the financial burden, which is undertaken by the Royal Society, less by subscribing for a copy of the work.

The New Edition of the B. O. U. List of British Birds.—This work is now complete and printed off except for the Index, and it is hoped that it will be ready for issue to subscribers early in February. The special subscription price to Members has been fixed at 5s. 6d., delivered free, and the Secretary will be glad to receive remittances as soon as possible. If Members would kindly enclose this amount when sending their annual subscriptions, it would be a convenience.